

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On April 5, 2007, Examiner Ramirez telephoned applicants' representative, Mark A. Farley, Esq. and she had taken over the responsibility for this application from the previous Examiner, Charles L. Patterson, Jr. During the telephone discussion, Examiner Ramirez informed said representative that if the applicants were willing to agree to certain claim amendments and to make certain clarifying amendments to the specification, the application would be in condition for allowance. Applicants' representative therefore consulted with the applicants and was informed that the proposed amendments to both the claims and the specification were acceptable to the applicants. Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the courtesies extended to their representative by Examiner Ramirez during the April 5th telephone discussion concerning this case.

Applicants' representative therefore telephoned Examiner Ramirez on Monday, April 9, 2007 to transmit applicants' acceptance of the proposed amendments. In light of applicants' acceptance of these amendments, it was determined that the amendments to the claims would be made by the Examiner herself, via an Examiner's Amendment, whereas the amendments to the specification would be carried out by means of this Amendment, which would be filed electronically with the Patent and Trademark Office. According to the Examiner, the joint effect of the Examiner's Amendment with the filing of this Amendment will result in the issuance of a Notice of Allowance concerning this application.

The amendments to the specification are as follows. On page 8, in paragraph [0027] and on page 10, in paragraph [0035], certain hyperlinks to internet websites have been deleted. Furthermore, on page 11, in Table 1, sequence identification numbers have been added to identify the DNA sequences set forth therein.

Applicants attach hereto an electronic copy of the Sequence Listing in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.821, and a Statement In Accordance With 37 C.F.R. §1.821(f).

Applicants have hereinabove amended the specification to insert sequence identifiers as necessary and add the attached Sequence Listing into the subject application. Applicants maintain that the amendments to the specification contain no new matter.

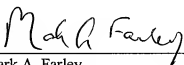
As noted above, the present Amendment is believed to place this application in condition for allowance when taken in conjunction with the changes to the claims, as authorized by applicants, which are to be made by an Examiner's Amendment. If there any remaining issues serving as an

impediment to an allowance of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone applicants' representative at the number below in order that they may be dealt with as necessary.

No fee is believed to be due with this Amendment. If any fee is found to be due, authorization is hereby given to charge the required fee to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
EFS FILING SYSTEM
ON APRIL 10, 2007



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